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30 December 1955

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [   ]

    1. Enclosed are the papers on the problem which we discussed which poses the basic question of when "foreign travel", as defined in [   ] ceases to   25X1 be "foreign travel" and becomes domestic travel as regarding the allowance of a berth for the traveler (s).

    2. The following rambling commentary may be of some assistance.

        a. GAO (Barclay, 195/5419) informally advises that they would not take exception to the payment of this particular claim. They distinguished the fact situation here from that presented in 32 Comptroller General 542, in which they denied a similar claim.

        b. Finance informs that State would not pay a claim such as this one.

        c. Finance admits that they would allow per diem of the dependents here for the trip from Seattle to New York on the theory that this leg of the trip constituted "foreign travel". They also admit that such allowance would be inconsistent in theory with their denial of the claim for the berth, on the ground that the leg from Seattle to New York constituted domestic travel.

        d. The "one berth" provision [   ] appears to have   25X1 been too narrowly construed, i.e. as one berth, qua berth, not as one berth per body.

        e. The larger problem of when a leg of an overseas transfer, or trip, ceases to be "foreign travel" and becomes domestic travel looms frighteningly beneath the surface of the specific problem presented. I gather from Finance that they would like

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the treatment of this larger problem which would include
the furnishing of a criteria which would enable them to
determine when foreign travel becomes domestic travel in
the context of situations roughly similar to this one. The
GAO does not know the answer to this one. It is not covered
in the regulations which I have reviewed. Perhaps you would
care to take up with Mr. Warner the policy issue of whether
to answer only the problem presented or to go into the entire
subject.

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